

am fortunate in one way because I do have a place where I can take my family to, but I think that if the families want to enjoy living with their children and going out to the outdoors, they should be given the opportunity that some of us have to raise our children away from the busy city life. The way it stands now there are people that travel several miles outside the State of Nebraska to enjoy the things that I enjoy close to Omaha. I visited Branched Oak, Lake McConaughy, Fort Robinson. The beauty of the land, the beauty of the lakes is there but we need the facilities. We need restrooms. We need boat ramps. The entry fee will not do it. There is a lot of money that is to be needed. The chances are pretty slim that we are going to receive any general fund appropriations of a sufficient amount to do the job that NORDA called for and like I say it will take a lot longer than the NORDA plan would have done with the pop tax. It may take ten years. All agencies now ahead of the commission, and the commission is 14th on the list, are very worthwhile in expenditures but they only serve a limited segment of society. Games and Parks, on the other hand, serves all Nebraskans, young and old, and low and high income. I urge the members of this body to vote for and approve Senator Mills' amendment.

SENATOR SAVAGE: The Chair recognizes Senator Reutzel.

SENATOR REUTZEL: Mr. President, members of the body, last year when 109 originally came up, even those who opposed the bill, Senator Bereuter, and I think Senator Burrows, and others, said that there was a need for some kind of funding for the parks. We have a situation, as has been explained by Senator Mills and Senator Labedz, we have increased usage. This bill, LB 109, with Senator Mills' amendments is a vehicle to provide that money. Last year the objection was why tax pop, why tax the kids. There were a lot of arguments. All we are doing is earmarking one cent out of the nickel for the Game and Parks so that we can provide the facilities that even the opponents last year to the bill said that we needed. Senator Mills has a fine amendment here. The bill has gone from roughly five million dollars, which we would have collected on the pop tax, down to less than two million. The NORDA plan and the areas which we are going to work on and approve is going to have to be strung out over a longer period of time. There are enough safeguards built into this. I think it is a very workable bill. We need this amendment. We need the bill and I would urge that you vote favorably on the Mills amendment. Thank you.

SENATOR SAVAGE: The Chair recognizes Senator Frank Lewis.

SENATOR F. LEWIS: Mr. President, I rise to support the Mills amendment and I rise for a couple of reasons that I think that all of you know that we talked about the comprehensive state park plan last time and the only issue was not whether we needed it or not. I did not hear one person stand on the floor to say that we did not need to do something in terms of upkeep and maintenance and updating our parks system. The issue last year seemed to be simply centered around those people that were there in terms of the bottles and the pops and those kind of things. I think most of us have utilized the cigarette tax fund. I